

found no evidence of wrongdoing and urged immediate and unconditional release of these funds.

Study after study has shown that development is fundamentally about women: dollars go further and programs mean more when they reach women. Increasing women's access to education, health care, and human rights brings enhanced child health, improved food production, lower population growth rates, and higher incomes—in short, better quality of life for women and their families.

Reproductive health is an important component of this agenda, especially when we look at maternal and child mortality rates. That is why it is so important that we support the UNFPA and in the process advance our other foreign assistance goals.

NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR A BALANCED ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to endorse S. Con. Res. 141 offered by Senator DOMENICI recognizing the essential role that nuclear power plays in our society.

The U.S. Senate must recognize the important role that nuclear energy plays in our Nation's economy, our Nation's energy independence and security, and our Nation's environmental goals. And, we need to acknowledge that like nearly every other source of energy, nuclear power needs our help to continue playing its important role in our Nation's energy policy.

Nuclear energy currently generates electricity for one in every five homes and businesses today. It is important not only in Louisiana, where two nuclear plants produce nearly 17 percent of my State's electricity, but also in States such as Connecticut, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina and Vermont where nuclear generates more electricity than any other source. Nationwide, 103 reactors provide 20 percent of our electricity—the largest source of U.S. emission-free power provided 24-7.

Nuclear energy is also vitally important for our environment and our Nation's clean air goals. Nuclear power is the Nation's largest clean air source of electricity, generating three-fourths of all emission-free electricity. For future generations of Americans, whose reliance on electricity will increase and who rightfully want a cleaner environment and the health benefits that cleaner air will provide nuclear energy will be an essential partner.

Just this past Sunday, the Washington Post highlighted the problems that the Shenandoah National Forest now faces with pollution. Think how much worse our Nation's air pollution would be if nuclear energy did not generate one fifth of our electricity.

According to the Department of Energy the demand for electricity is expected to grow by 40 percent by 2020. In order to continue producing at least one-third of our total electricity gen-

eration from emission-free sources, we must build 50,000 megawatts of new nuclear energy production. If we do that, we are just preserving our current levels of emission-free generation, not improving them.

And, we need to recognize that nuclear power, by providing a stable, dependable source of electricity, is vital to our Nation's energy security and independence. Nuclear power is essentially an American invention. We generate nearly a fourth of the world's total nuclear power and we can do so with domestic energy sources. Hydrogen holds the promise of helping us lessen our dependence on imported oil and nuclear power is one of the most promising ways that we can produce hydrogen economically and efficiently.

There is a nuclear power renaissance in the making. Three of the Nation's leading nuclear power operators have already applied for an early site permit to build a new nuclear plant next door to an existing nuclear plant they operate, testing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new licensing process for the first time. Also, just a few months ago, nine nuclear operating companies and the two major U.S. power reactor manufacturers formed the NuStart Energy consortium to apply for a construction and operating license, COL, to test the regulatory process for actually building and operating the next generation of nuclear power plants.

These are positive signs that the U.S. nuclear power industry is alive and ready to build and operate the next generation of nuclear power—still without emitting any air pollutants, increasing our energy independence, and using the safest designs ever.

Today 29 new plants are being built around the world in 16 countries—most using a design that originated here in America—but not one of them is in the U.S. That must change.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical resolution which will further promote a vital source of energy while helping to pave the way towards improving our Nation's energy security.

ART THERAPISTS VITAL TO THE CARE OF VETERANS

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I bring attention to the impressive work that art therapists do with our Nation's veterans and the significant accomplishments they have made in this field. Art therapists provide effective treatment and health maintenance intervention for veterans, focusing on all of their life challenges, such as mental, physical, and cognitive impairments. Intense emotion and memory, often difficult to convey in words, often are more easily expressed in images with the guidance of a trained clinician.

Art therapists are master's level mental health practitioners trained in psychology, psychotherapy, and the interface with the arts modality. The American Art Therapy Association es-

tablishes national academic standards of education and clinical practice. After September 11, art therapists assisted both survivors and the bereaved, drawing out their traumatic experiences and dealing pictorially with the horror as they moved through the various stages of grief. Similarly, art therapy is used with veterans who struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Research has demonstrated that traumatic memory is not stored in a fashion that can be expressed only through words. Instead, it is retained as visual, auditory, olfactory, and other sense mechanisms. Images may return as flashbacks or nightmares that the veteran is unable to integrate as memory. As a result, these impressions remain a toxic force, causing intense fear and leading the veteran to try to shut off all memory and emotion and possibly leading to depression, the inability to properly function day to day, and estrangement from family. The traumatic experiences that a veteran is unable to discuss or confront, however, can instead surface through artwork. The process of creating the artwork and externalizing intense issues help the veteran to regain control, integrate horrors into manageable memory, and allow feelings to be experienced again.

For example, a former Marine who served in Vietnam and struggled for years with feelings of inadequacy and fear in crowds benefitted considerably from art therapy. He has said that it enabled him to address problems he otherwise did not have access to, thereby helping him to "mourn the pain . . . overcome . . . and feel comfortable within" himself. Another serviceman drew out his dreams as a way of placing combat experiences into the past and therefore to function more effectively in the present. Such life-enhancing and cost-efficient intervention is not only viable as a treatment option, but may be preventive by forestalling full-blown PTSD. Given the number of veterans gradually returning from the current war in Iraq, art therapy has the potential to assist them as a form of rehabilitation. The American Art Therapy Association is currently investigating possible sites and funding sources for conducting outcome studies on the efficacy of art therapy with veterans.

I would also like to mention with pride that more than 100 registered art therapists live and work in my home State of Florida. These therapists practice all across the State, from my hometown of Miami all the way up to the Panhandle. I am so pleased that almost every veteran—or anyone else—residing in Florida has access to the benefits art therapy can offer.

As ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I support the use of art therapy programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities, and I recognize the contribution of art therapists to the effective reintegration, enhanced coping,